

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCHENRY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND ROY SMITH

(Mr. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Roy P. Smith of Little Rock, Arkansas. I first met Roy in 1992 when he moved to my hometown of Prescott, Arkansas, to lead the church that my family and I belong to, the First United Methodist Church of Prescott. During his 3 years in my hometown, Roy was my pastor, my spiritual adviser, and a leader in our community. By the time Roy, along with his wife Sandy, daughter Martha Helen and son Andrew left Prescott to move on to their next assignment up the road in Malvern, Arkansas, Roy had become one of my closest and most trusted personal friends.

My family and the Smith family will be forever linked together by a strong and lasting bond of friendship, and it is a distinct pleasure to have Reverend Roy Smith here today to open this legislative day in the United States House of Representatives with his thoughtful and meaningful words of prayer. As we go about doing the work of the people, may we remember the prayer Reverend Roy Smith delivered on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives this day.

THE BUDGET

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats are setting some records this week, but these are not landmarks we should be proud of. In fact, it won't make the Democrats famous, but it will most certainly make them infamous.

The Democrats are poised to pass a \$392 billion tax increase on this House floor, the largest tax increase in American history. Rewind to 1993, the last time the Democrats had control of this House Chamber, and what did they do? They proposed the largest tax increase

in American history. They're one-upping their own history.

It's amazing, Mr. Speaker. That means 115 million Americans will see taxes increased on average by \$1,795. This isn't chump change. It's real money to the American people.

And why do Democrats feel they're entitled to this money? Because that's what they do. They're Democrats. They tax. They spend. It's not a new idea. They've been at it for 70 years. If it weren't so infuriating, it would just simply be so sad.

IRAN

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. The President's threat of the use of military force against Iran is an impeachable offense. When our Commander in Chief says all options are on the table, it is unmistakable. That means a military strike, even the use of nuclear weapons. Instead of inviting calamity upon himself, our Nation and the world, President Bush should reopen serious diplomatic negotiations with Iran to de-escalate tensions and resolve all issues, including Iran's use of nuclear power.

We must reject the idea that war is inevitable and that war is diplomacy by another means and work to remove the barriers of misunderstanding between Iran and the U.S. and Iran and the region.

Instead of making statements or passing resolutions which sets the stage for conflict with Iran, Members of Congress should convene to seek a way to avert military conflict with Iran.

I will be contacting my colleagues to discuss how we can create a course of action which creates peace through integrating Iran with the world community and addresses all issues which are at the core of the conflict.

BARBECUE KILLER

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Tynesha Stewart, a 19-year-old freshman at Texas A&M, was looking forward to spring break and coming home to Houston to visit with her mother.

There was one problem with coming home, however. Her possessive ex-boyfriend Timothy Shepherd would not leave her alone. Tynesha knew that he would contact her, even though she had repeatedly told him she wanted to move on. He and his male ego refused to accept this.

On March 15, Tynesha made one final attempt to cut the ties with this harasser. She told him that she was seeing someone else and that it was over. Shepherd decided if he could not have her, no one would, and he strangled this young college student.

This was not the end of his barbaric acts. He needed to get rid of her body, so he dismembered Tynesha and then he barbecued her on his apartment patio grill. The burning of her body took 2 full days. Shepherd did all this to the person he claimed he loved.

Timothy Shepherd has been charged with murder for his grisly crimes. The people of Texas will properly decide what to do with this barbecue killer.

Love is not harassment, control, or abuse. You never hurt someone you claim you love. And if you do, woe to you, because justice will rule the day.

And that's just the way it is.

DEMOCRATIC BUDGET IS BALANCED WITHIN THE NEXT 5 YEARS AND INVESTS IN OUR CHILDREN

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, a budget is a blueprint of a party's values. This week, Democrats will bring a budget to the House floor that cares for our children and our families without raising taxes.

For the first time in 6 years, we have an opportunity to pass a budget that actually finds balance in the next 5 years, something that Republicans never did while they controlled the House and something the President continues to refuse to do. We want to get our fiscal house in order so that our children are not forced to pay off our debts decades from now. At the same time we are paying down our debt, we also invest in our children, making sure they have access to quality health care and to quality education.

The Democratic budget substantially increases the S-CHIP program, which will allow our States to insure millions of children who are now uninsured. In California, it is known as the Healthy Families program. We also provide \$7.9 billion over the President's budget for education funding, which includes No Child Left Behind, special education and helping students better afford college.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic budget values our children and puts them first while investing in our country.

THE FEDERAL BUDGET

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Right now, taxpayers in south central Michigan are making tough choices every day to ensure their family budgets are balanced. They do so by cutting spending and having fiscal discipline. It's time we make these same commonsense choices on a Federal level.

This week in the House, we will begin debating a budget plan for the fiscal year 2008. A budget proposal introduced by my colleagues on the opposite side

of the aisle would impose the largest tax increase in American history, nearly \$400 billion over the next 5 years. Their plan would institute a \$3,000 tax increase for every typical Michigander and put off needed entitlement reform for at least another 5 years.

Congress needs to pass a balanced budget bill without raising taxes. We need to make tax relief permanent for hardworking American families and reform unsustainable entitlements. The American people long for a Congress that puts our fiscal house in order on a Federal level, but they want this done without expanding the size and scope of the Federal Government.

I urge my colleagues to oppose any budget plan that proposes a "spend now, reform later" mentality.

PRESIDENT REFUSES TO CHANGE COURSE AND CALLS HOUSE ACTION POLITICAL THEATER

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, last week the Democratic House delivered on its promise to move the Iraq war in a new direction. We approved a very serious piece of legislation that includes the recommendations of the President, the nonpartisan Iraq Study Group and the Pentagon. The President responded to our action by describing it as political theater and threatening a Presidential veto.

How can this be political theater if we are putting some real teeth into the benchmarks that the President himself established for the Iraqi government earlier this year? Let's not forget the President's own words: "I've made it clear to the Prime Minister and Iraq's other leaders that America's commitment is not open-ended. If the Iraqi government does not follow through on its promises, it will lose the support of the American people," said President Bush. Those were his words.

This legislation passed last week puts in law the President's demands that the Iraqis meet his benchmarks. You would think the President would support such action. Instead, he calls it political theater. So much for holding the Iraqi government accountable. The President should reconsider his veto threat. It could be the theater of the absurd.

HOUSE OVERSIGHT OF BUSH ADMINISTRATION IS LEADING TO RESULTS IN THE U.S. ATTORNEYS SCANDAL

(Mr. SIREs asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, they say when you have bad news, get it out on Friday night. That's exactly what happened last Friday when the Justice Department released documents indicating that Attorney General Gonzales led a meeting of top aides to discuss

the firing of U.S. Attorneys. This document completely contradicts the Attorney General's own statement that he did not participate in any discussion and only had cursory knowledge of the U.S. Attorney dismissals.

The Attorney General's contradictions were followed yesterday by a Justice Department official taking the fifth and refusing to testify. This is unacceptable, particularly after Gonzales himself said that all Justice Department officials would be made available to Congress.

The administration needs to make Justice Department and White House officials available to Congress so that we can continue to provide oversight. This Congress will continue to ask tough questions so that we may ensure U.S. Attorneys are free from political pressure.

THE DEMOCRATIC BUDGET

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. George Bush and the Republicans have spent our country to the verge of bankruptcy. They have doubled our foreign debt. They have increased our national debt by 60 percent. George Bush has accumulated more debt than every President who preceded him in the United States of America and they have done it on the credit card.

And guess who is going to get the bill in their world after they eliminate taxes for the wealthy? It's going to be the middle class, and they're going to get hit twice. They're going to get the bill, and their kids and grandkids are going to get the bill. And the programs that middle-income Americans need like tuition assistance for their kids to go to college, the Bushies cut those. That's their sense of fiscal responsibility.

The other side over here, the gentleman from North Carolina is saying, oh, the largest tax increase in history.

No. We're allowing the tax cuts for the wealthiest among us, people who earn over \$250,000 a year, people who have estates worth more than \$5 million, we're asking that once again they pay their fair share. There will not be a penny increase on middle-income families. They can make up anything they want, but it's not true.

But, yes, the wealthy would pay a little bit more. That's why they're squealing so much, because the Republicans get their money from the wealthy to try and maintain control of our country.

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SALUTE TO CORPORAL FLETCHER

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, "hero" is not a label that should be employed

carelessly, and in a time when our country has many heroes serving abroad, I rise today to honor a hero at home: Corporal Ronald Fletcher.

A member of the Jefferson County Sheriffs Department, Corporal Fletcher was pursuing a burglary suspect into a home last month when he was shot twice in the chest and once in the arm.

At only 26 years old, he lay seriously wounded in the house with the suspect until his fellow deputies were able to remove him safely.

Today, just one short month after the incident, I am proud to share that Corporal Fletcher is home and well on his way to recovery. As a testimony to his profound sense of duty, he recently complained about being bored in his home full of fruit baskets and is eager to return to service.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the heroism of Corporal Fletcher and the valor of the Jefferson County Sheriffs Department. West Virginia is sincerely grateful for their service.

RESTORING FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, for too long, many of America's toughest challenges have gone unaddressed while massive debt was piled on the backs of our young generations.

Now, this Democratic-led House has proposed a budget that takes our Nation in a new direction and reaches balance in 5 years while lowering the deficit. By contrast, the President's proposed budget does not achieve balance at all, despite his promises to do so.

The House budget also puts in place pay-as-you-go spending principles, finally requiring our government to balance and prioritize spending the way all American families must do. Restoring fiscal integrity is not only good for the budget's bottom line, but it is also important in protecting our national security, since much of our Nation's debt is owed to foreign governments.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic budget resolution begins the process of restoring fiscal integrity to the leftover Republican mess of reckless spending and massive deficits. It is time for a balanced budget that meets the needs of American families without mortgaging our future to foreign interests.

DEMOCRATS' MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 110TH CONGRESS

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, over the last 3 months, this new Democratic House has paved the way for a new direction in America.

During the first 100 hours, we passed legislation increasing the minimum